

Precision Psychiatry for Depression and Anxiety: Using Biotypes to Personalize Treatment Selection

Leanne M. Williams, PhD

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Stanford University

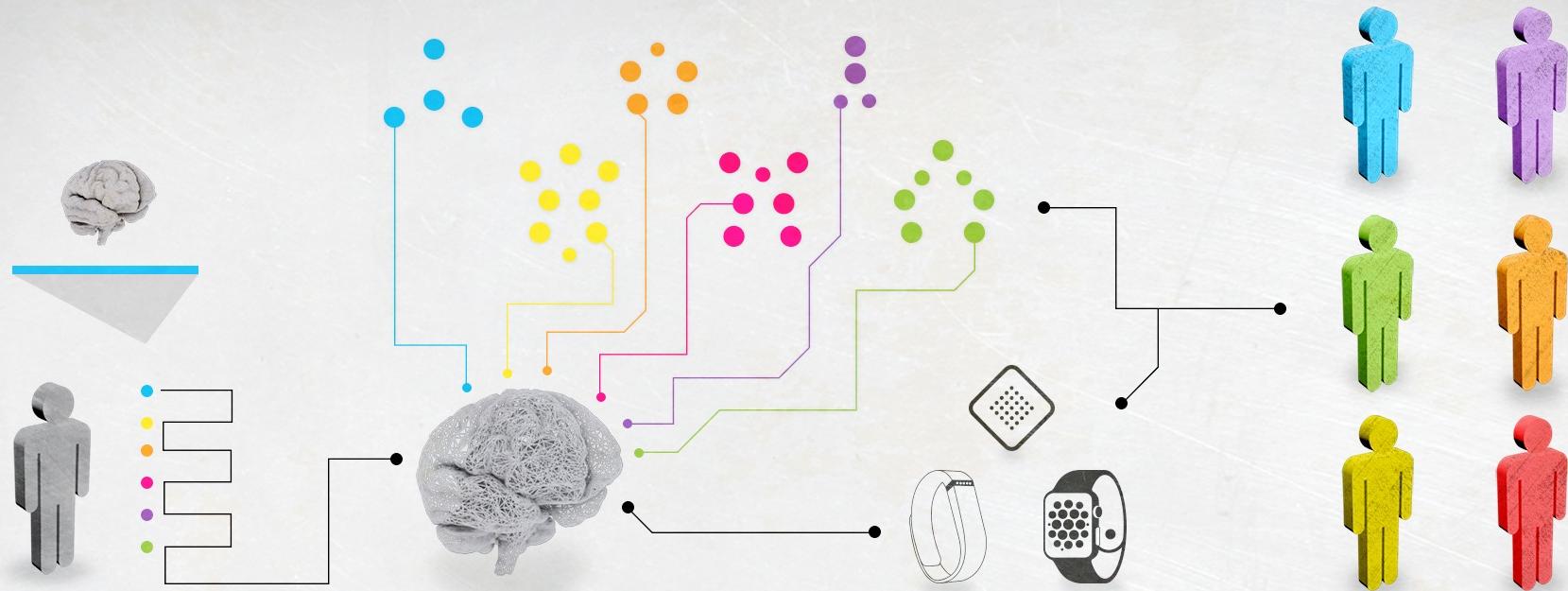
Director of Education and Precision Medicine in Psychiatry,
MIRECC VA Palo Alto



PMHW

Stanford Center for Precision Mental Health and Wellness





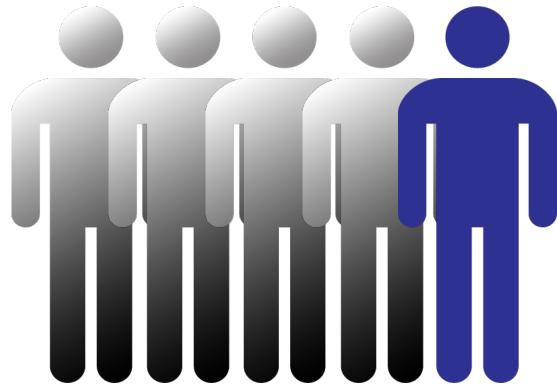
HUMAN IMAGING AND BIOTYPING

MECHANISTIC TRIALS

BIOTYPE-GUIDED TRIALS

COMPUTATION

CLINICAL AND FIELD TRANSLATION



1 IN 5

PANDEMIC-RELATED INCREASE IN
RATES OF DEPRESSION & ANXIETY

2 in 5



Single leading cause of disability

We lose \$1 Trillion in productivity each year

1 in 8 ED visits

> 8 million are caring for a loved one

41% of Veterans

37% of adults, 70% of youth in the prison systems

40% higher risk of other chronic diseases

Twice as likely to drop out of school or work

Every
40 
seconds,
someone dies by **suicide**



IN THE LAB

Can precision medicine do for depression what it's done for cancer? It won't be easy

By MEGAN THIELKING @meggophone / MAY 9, 2018

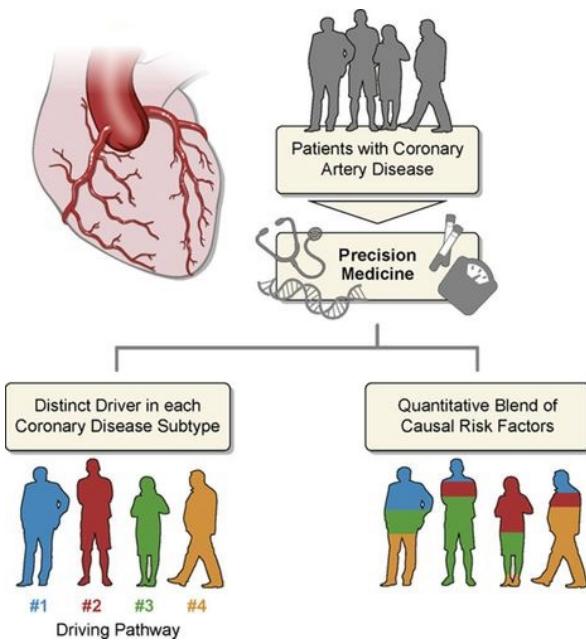
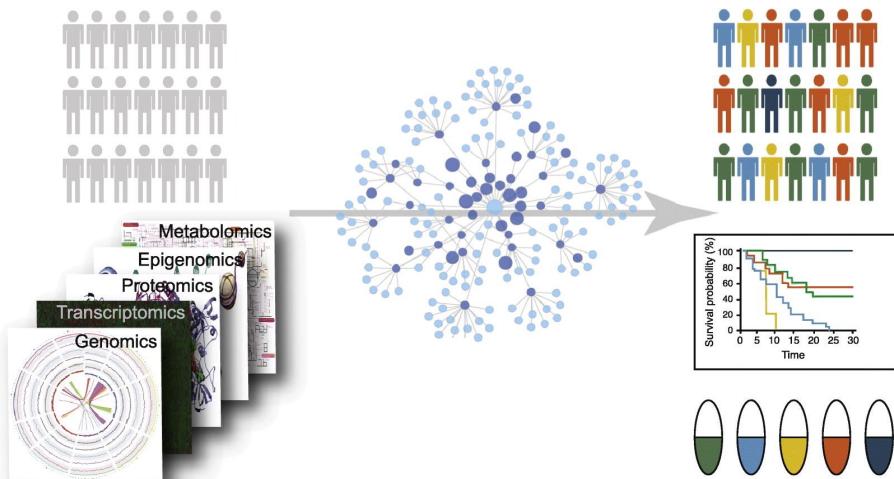


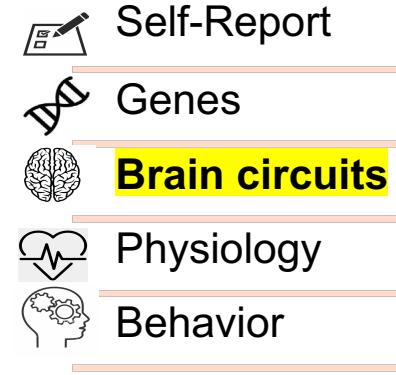
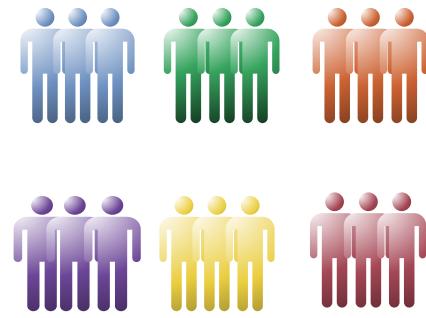
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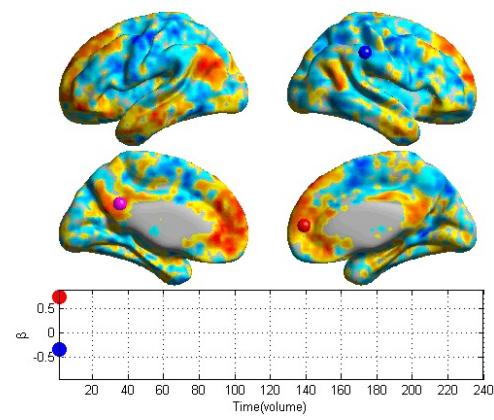
At a growing number of research centers across the country, scientists are scanning brains of patients with [depression](#), drawing their blood, asking about their symptoms, and then scouring that data for patterns. The goal: pinpoint subtypes of depression, then figure out which treatments have the best chance of success for each particular variant of the disease.

The idea of precision medicine for depression is quickly gaining ground — just last month, Stanford announced it is establishing a Center for Precision Mental Health and Wellness.

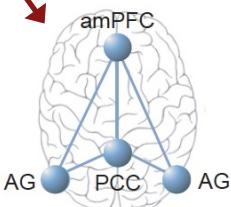
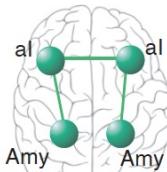
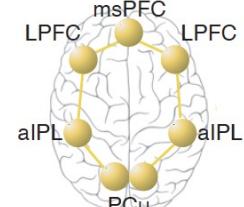
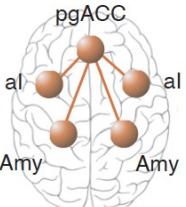
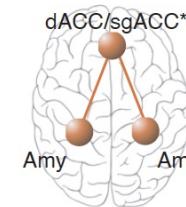
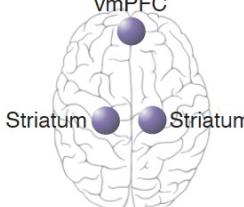
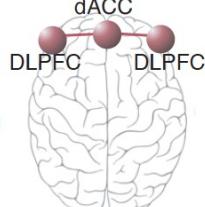
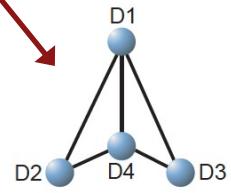
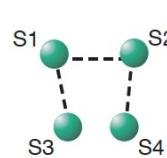
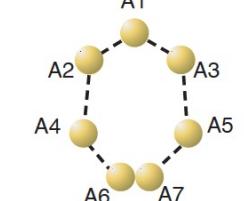
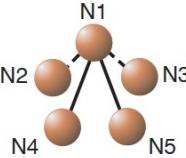
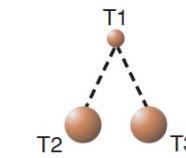
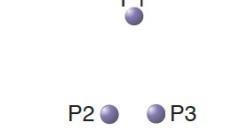
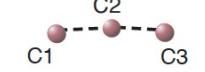
<https://www.statnews.com/2018/05/09/precision-medicine-depression-treatment/>



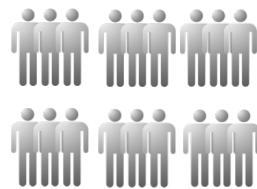




Development and testing of a standardized pipeline suited to biotype trials

Circuit	Default Mode	Salience	Attention	Negative Affect - Sad	Negative Affect - Threat	Positive Affect	Cognitive Control
Standardizing Regions & Connections							
Quantifying Regional Circuit Clinical Scores							
Computing Global Circuit Clinical Scores	$\frac{(C_{D1,D2} + C_{D1,D3} + C_{D1,D4} + C_{D2,D4})/5}{C_{D3,D4}}$	$\frac{(-C_{S1,S3} - C_{S2,S4} - C_{S1,S2})/3}{C_{S1,S2}}$	$\frac{(-C_{A1,A2} - C_{A1,A3} - C_{A2,A4} - C_{A3,A5} - C_{A4,A6} - C_{A5,A7})/6}{C_{A1,A2}}$	$\frac{(A_{N1} + A_{N2} + A_{N3} + A_{N4} + A_{N5} - C_{N1,N2} - C_{N1,N3} + C_{N1,N4} + C_{N1,N5})/9}{C_{N1,N2}}$	$\frac{(-A_{T1} + A_{T2} + A_{T3} - C_{T1,T2} - C_{T1,T3})/5}{C_{T1,T2}}$	$\frac{(-A_{P1} - A_{P2} - A_{P3})/3}{C_{P1,P2}}$	$\frac{(-A_{C1} - A_{C2} - A_{C3} - C_{C1,C2} - C_{C2,C3})/5}{C_{C1,C2}}$

Now

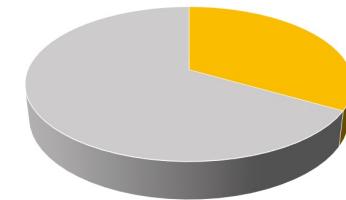


Expertise &
dedication



ANTIDEPRESSANTS

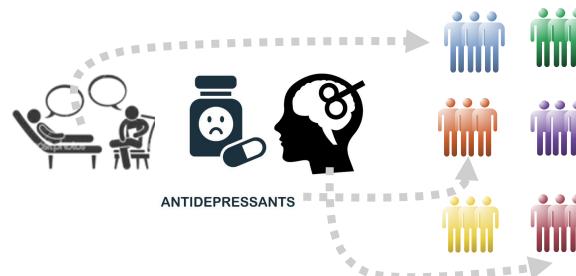
Try one,
Wait and see.
Try another



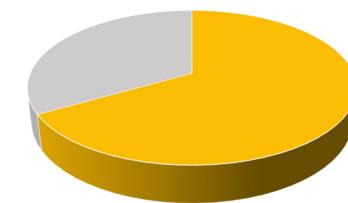
1/3

get better first try

Future



ANTIDEPRESSANTS



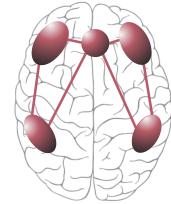
At least double



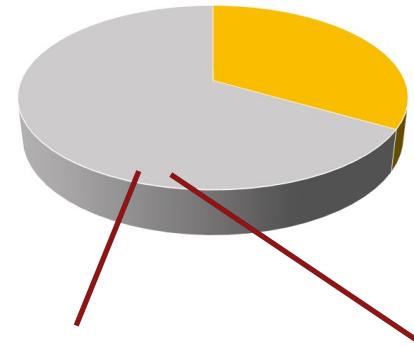
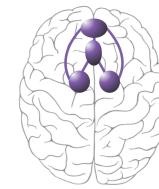
Accuracy from trials undertaken so far is 75-81%



Cognitive impairment

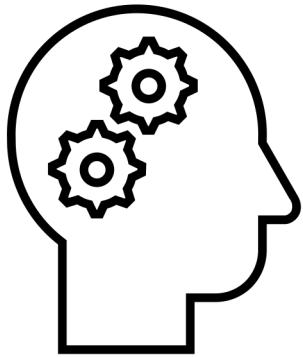


Anhedonia

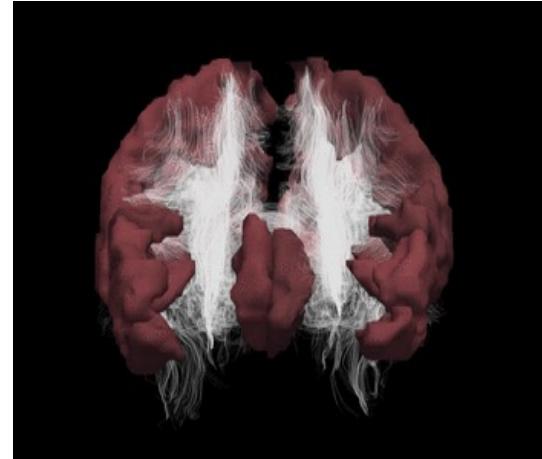


More likely non-responders

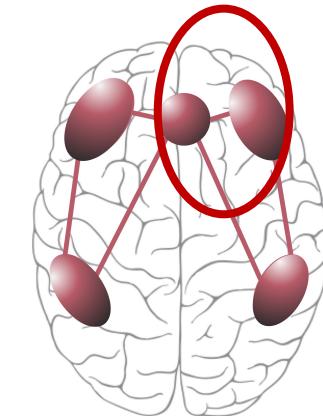
Poorer function, higher suicide risk



Cognitive impairments



Cognitive control
circuit

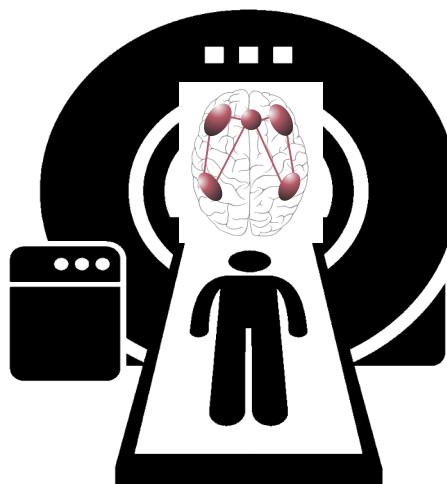


Dorsal Lateral
Prefrontal Cortex
(DLPFC)

‘First line’ antidepressants

International Study to Predict Optimized Treatment for Depression (iSPOT-D), a randomized clinical trial: rationale and protocol

Leanne M Williams^{1,2*}, A John Rush³, Stephen H Koslow^{1,4}, Stephen R Wisniewski⁵, Nicholas J Cooper⁶, Charles B Nemeroff⁷, Alan F Schatzberg⁸, Evian Gordon^{2,6}

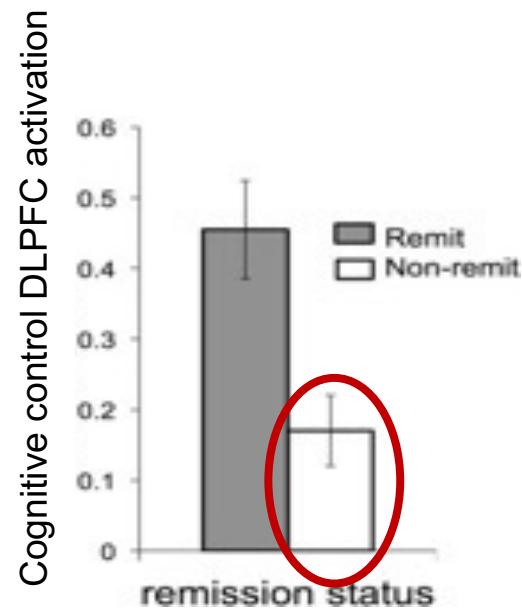


Escitalopram (Lexapro)
Sertraline (Zoloft)
Venlafaxine (Effexor)

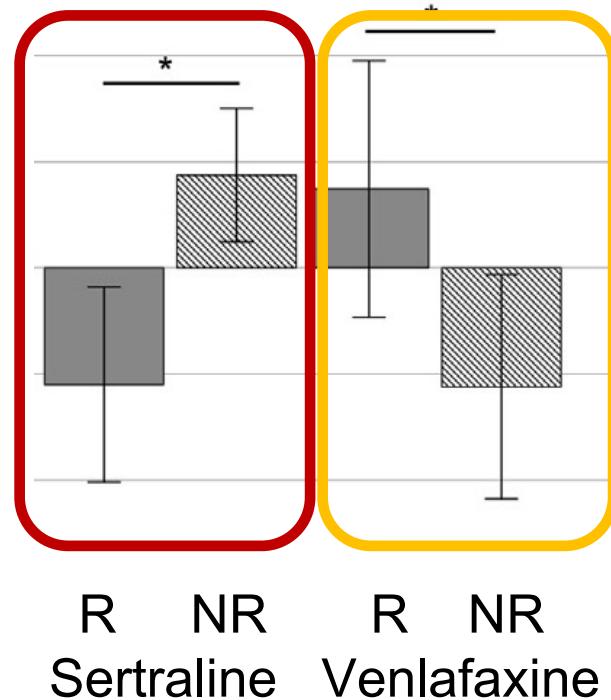
Baseline

8 weeks treatment

Outcomes assessed



Cognitive control circuit connectivity differentiated response to different types of antidepressant



Behavioral therapy focused on
cognitive problem solving

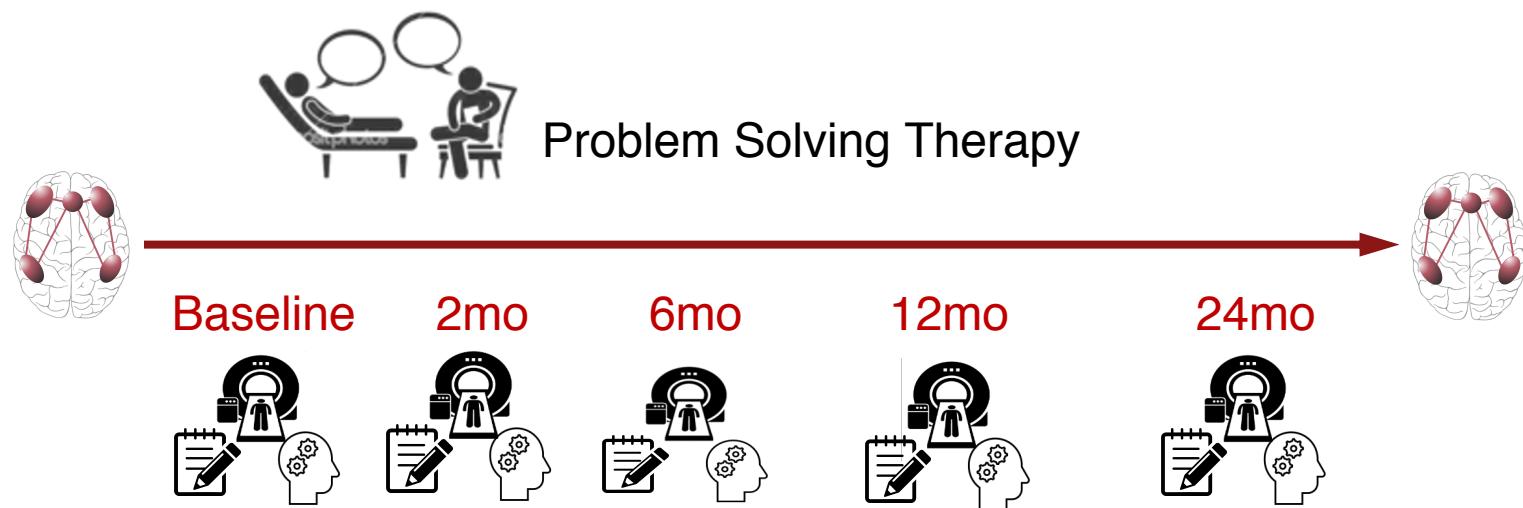
SOBC

Science Of Behavior Change

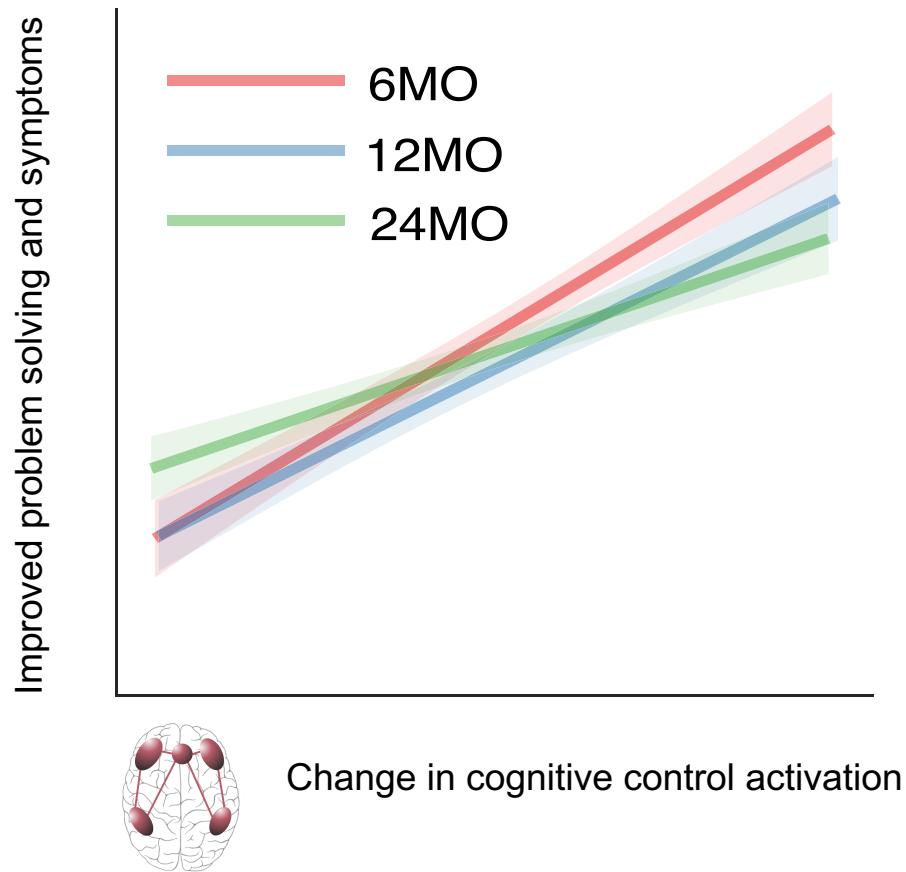
NIH Grants

- UH2 HL132368
- UH3 HL132368
- R01 HL119453





Cognitive control circuit activation increased with therapy.
This increase predicted improvements 6, 12 and 24 months later

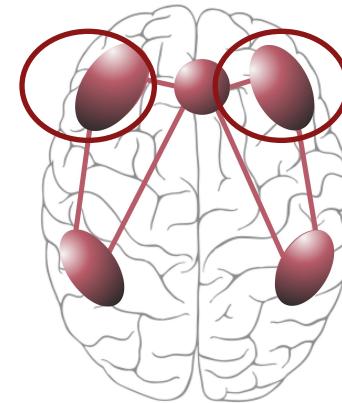


Targeted novel treatments

Targeting cognitive control with guanfacine



- Guanfacine-immediate release
- Selective for α_2 receptors → strengthen prefrontal connections
- Shown to increase DLPFC activation
- Shown to improve cognition
- Meets safety/availability criteria



e.g., McAllister et al. Int J Psychophysiol (2011); Arnsten et al. Science (1985);
Jarrott et al. Br J Pharmacol (1982); Kim et al. Psychopharmacol (2012).

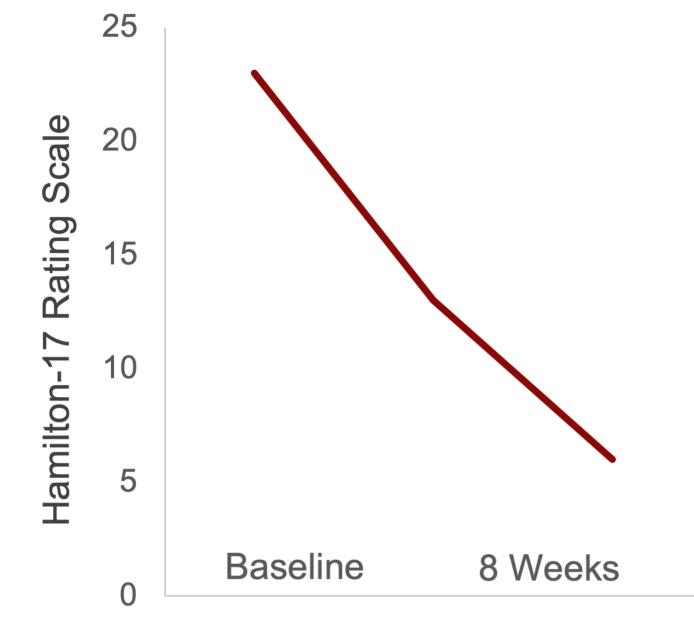
Guanfacine: Ms. A's Case

- 52 yo female
- *“I haven't been able to concentrate on work for a month now. I haven't put out anything productive...I find myself be easily distracted.”*
- Guanfacine 1 mg daily for one week, then 2 mg daily

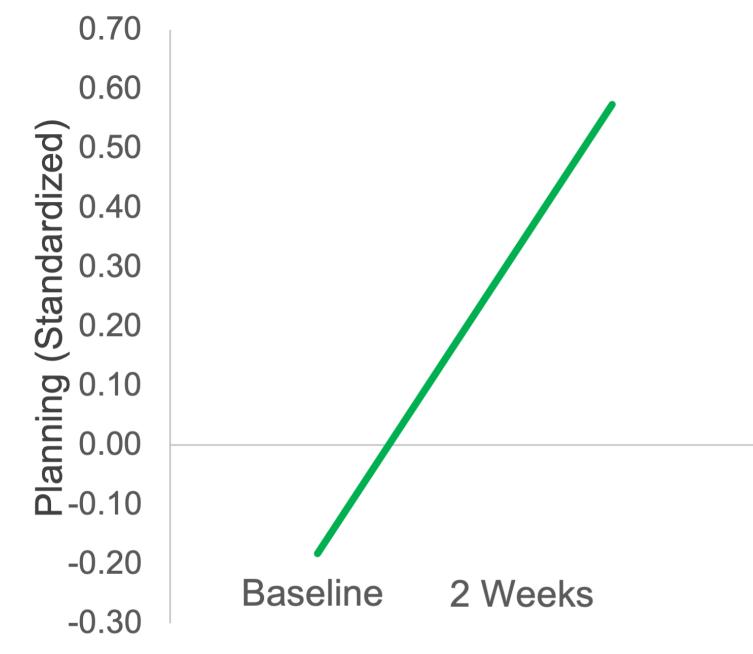


After 8 weeks of Guanfacine

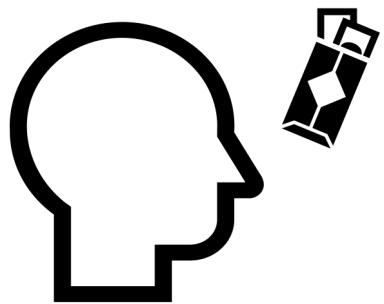
Depression Score



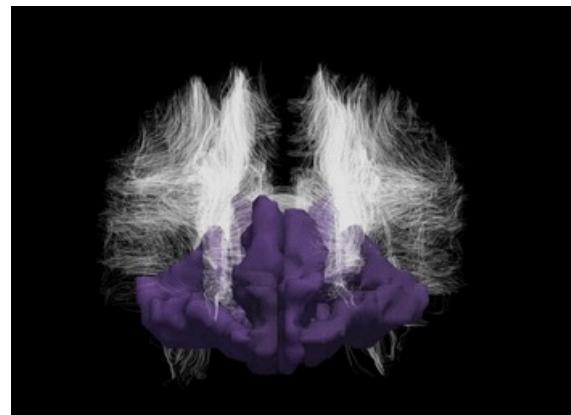
Cognitive function



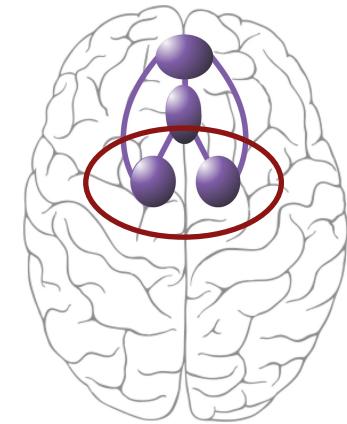
→ Had the motivation to return to work during pandemic and able to focus on projects; started planning vacation



Reward dysfunction
Loss of pleasure
Loss of motivation



Positive affect
reward circuit



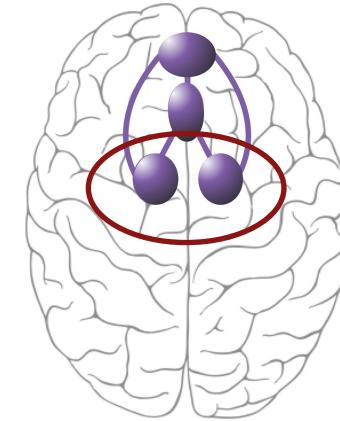
Ventral striatum

Targeting reward circuit and anhedonia with pramipexole



- Pramipexole is selective for D3 dopamine receptors
- D3 receptors are densely localized in the ventral striatum
- Pramipexole has been shown to increase ventral striatal activation
- Meets safety/availability criteria

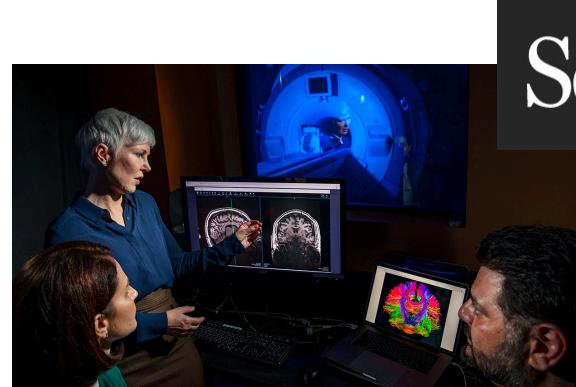
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e.g., Piercey et al. Neurosci Lett (1996); Camacho-Ochoa et al. Neurosci Lett (1995); Mierau et al. Eur J Pharmacol (1995); Kvernmo et al. Clin Ther (2006); Ye et al., Hum Brain Mapp (2011); Whitton et al. Brain (2020); Cusin et al. J Clin Psychiatry (2013); Corrigan et al. Depress Anxiety (2000).

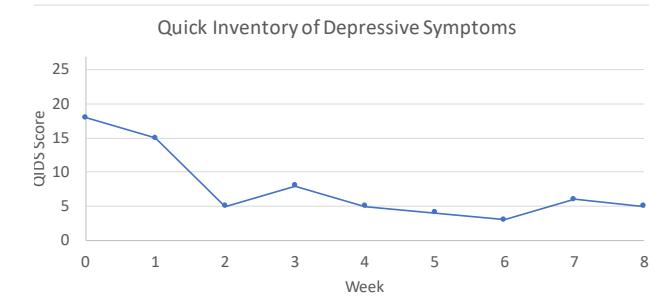
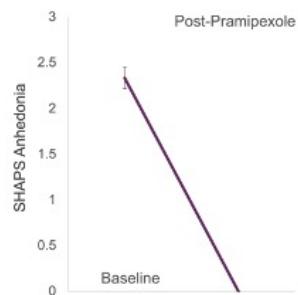
Pramipexole: Moe's Case

- 37 years
- Deep depression with high level of anhedonia
- He had lost his job, was no longer engaging in activities that he previously enjoyed and began to isolate himself

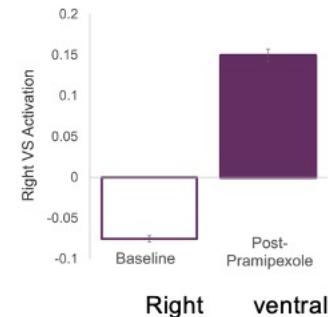
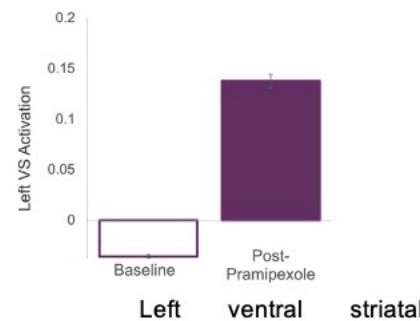
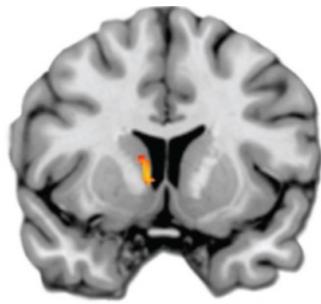


Pramipexole: Moe's Case

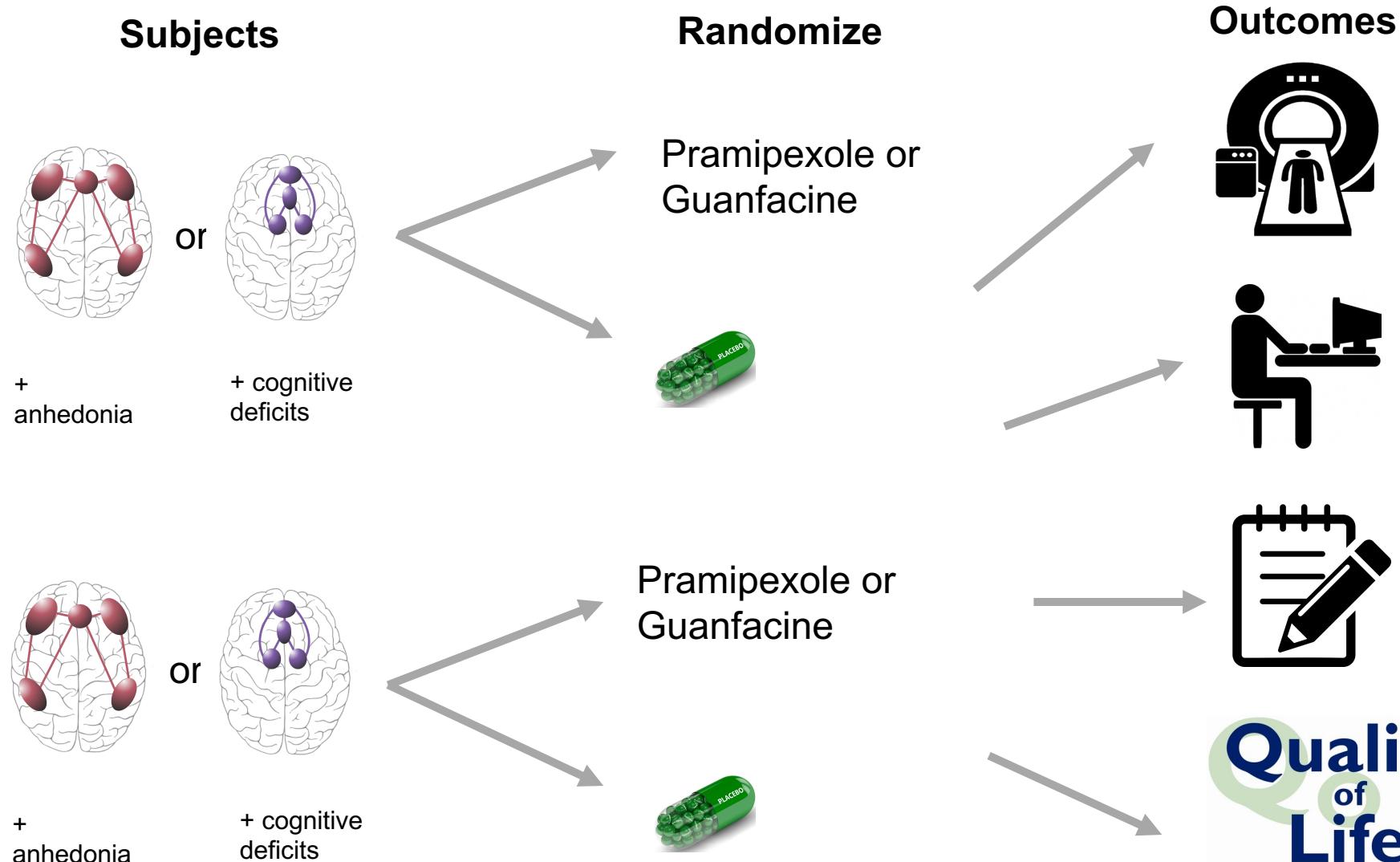
“The color has come back into my life...
I enjoy music and food again.”



Suicidal thoughts resolved

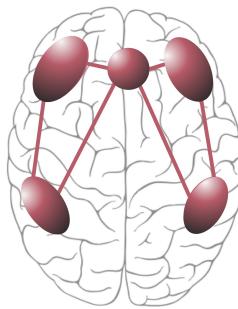
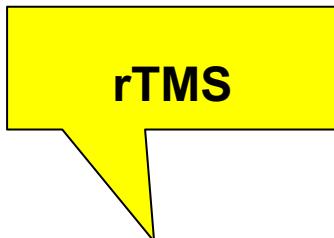


Biomarker Guided (BIG) Study of Depression



Mechanistic trials

Targeting cognitive control circuit with with neuromodulation techniques



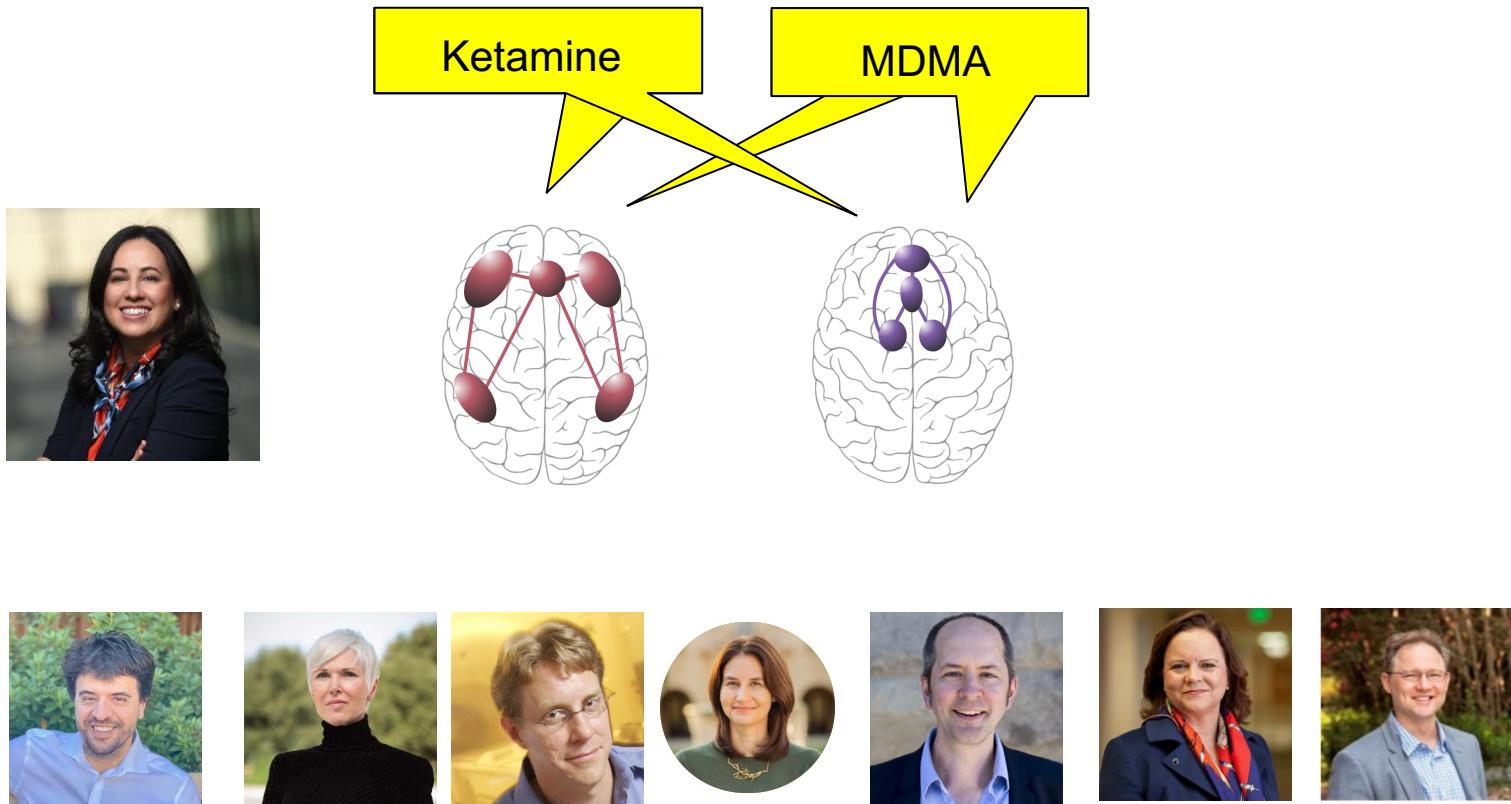
Palo Alto
Providence
Dartmouth
Minnesota



Williams et al. BMC Psychiatry (2021)

NIMH. R01MH120126-01

Probing the circuits with experimental drugs to understand the mechanisms by which they alter brain states



NIDA P50 Neural Circuit Dynamics of Drug Action: DA042012
Overall PIs: Karl Deisseroth and Lisa Giocomo ; Human Subjects PI, Williams
doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.09.20.460992>

Our roadmap for precision mental health

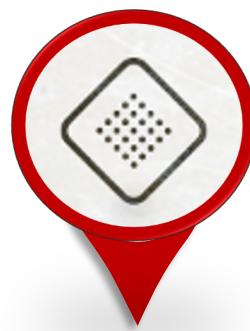
1. Biotyping



2. Mechanistic Trials



3. Biotype-guided Trials



4. Computation



5. Translation



Thank you!

Research projects: *med.stanford.edu/pmhaw*

Contact: *pmhw_admin@stanford.edu*



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Mental Health and Wellness



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MEDICINE